An Appropriate Assessment screening exercise has been undertaken by Arup on behalf of Cork County Council. A copy of the Screening Report is included with this planning pack. Consideration was given to potential for the proposed development to give rise to significant negative impacts on two Natura 2000 sites which were identified to be located within 15km of the proposed development. These are the Great Island Channel Special Area of Conservation and the Cork Harbour Special Protection Area.

Risk of the proposed project giving rise to significant negative effects on the Great Island Channel SAC were screened out, having regard to the substantial distance there is between the proposed development site and this SAC (8km), and taking account the scale of the works and of the lack of any potential pathway for impact on the SAC.

The Cork Harbour Special Protection Area is located within 225m of the proposed development site. Consideration was given in the submitted report the following possible impacts to this site:

- Risk of works causing disturbance to birds which are qualifying interests of the SPA including disturbance caused by noise, human activity and lighting;

- Risk of emissions (dust, contaminated water) resulting in pollution of intertidal habitats or surface water.

Notwithstanding the proximity of the SPA to the works site, the risk of any such impact arising was ruled out taking account of the scale and nature of the works, noting that there will be no significant air, noise nor water/ground emissions arising from the proposed development site, and in particular noting that surface water will filter to ground, excavations will be shallow, and no dewatering is required.

Cork County Council concurs with the conclusions of the Habitats Directive Screening Report and is satisfied that the proposed works do not pose a risk of causing significant negative impacts on any Natura 2000 site for the following reasons:
• All development activity will take place within the site works boundary. No works will take place within any Natura 2000 site. No material or spoil from the works will be deposited in any Natura 2000 site. There will be no encroachment on the habitats or species of any Natura 2000 site.

• There will be no loss of Natura 2000 site habitat area, no fragmentation of the habitats of Natura 2000 sites, no disturbance to the qualifying species of the Natura 2000 sites, no impacts on population density of these species, no impacts on water resources and no impacts on water quality of the Natura 2000 sites.

• There will be no significant emissions to air, soil or water during construction or operation. There will also be no significant noise emissions during the construction or operational phase.

Senior Engineer
Traffic & Transportation
Forward Planning & Strategic Development
Floor 11, County Hall
Cork